

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-04 IO-10 /070 W

----- 033114

R 071550Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0958

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PO

SUBJ: CDS LEADERS MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF: (A) LISBON 4764; (B) LISBON 4372

SUMMARY: AS RESULT OF VICIOUS ATTACK ON CDS HEADQUARTERS,
PARTY IRONICALLY MAY HAVE RECEIVED NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO
ESTABLISH A LEGITIMATE PLACE IN POLITICS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED IN REF (A), LEADERS OF CDS MET WITH PRIME
MINISTER GONCALVES AT NOON NOVEMBER 5 REGARDING INCIDENTS
PREVIOUS DAY WHICH RESULTED IN SACKING OF CDS HEADQUARTERS.

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ACCORDING TO CDS SECRETARY GENERAL, 1-1/2 HOUR MEETING WITH

PRIME MINISTER WAS VERY ENCOURAGING. PRIME MINISTER, AFTER HEARING FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF EVENTS, PROMISED TO TRY TO GET CABINET, WHICH WAS TO MEET LATER THAT DAY, TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNATORY OF WHOLE EPISODE (WHICH IT LATER DID). PM, IN EMOTIONAL PROMISE TO CDS LEADERS, SAID THAT IF CABINET WOULD NOT ITSELF ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT, HE WOULD DO SO PERSONALLY. PM ALSO AGREED TO LET CDS APPEAR ON TV THAT EVENING TO EXPLAIN TO POPULATION WHAT PARTY STANDS FOR, AND TO MAKE NEEDED POINT THAT IT NOT FASCIST BUT RATHER A LEGITIMATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

2. CDS DID NOT (AS THEY HAD PLANNED) ASK PM TO BANN MRPP, SINCE SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF THEY LEARNED THAT MEMBERS OF OTHER GROUPS ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF CROWD PARTICIPATING IN ASSAULT (THEY BELIEVE THAT SOCIALIST YOUTH GROUP AMONG THOSE INVOLVED, WHICH MAKES SPECIFIC BANNING OF ONLY MRPP BY GOVERNMENT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE).

3. TRUE TO HIS WORD, PM ALLOWED CDS TO MAKE PRESENTATION FOLLOWING PRIME TIME EVENING NEWS. UNDER SECRETARY OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS LED OFF SERIES OF STATEMENTS CRITICIZING ATTACK ON CDS AND PROMISING THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE ARRESTED AND MADE TO PAY FOR DAMAGES. COPCON HAS MADE A NUMBER OF ARRESTS BASED ON DATA FURNISHED THEM BY POLICE AND LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS OF PERSONS SEEN FLEEING FROM CDS WITH STOLEN EQUIPMENT, ETC. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED IS MRPP LEADER SALDANHA SANCHES, WHO INJURED IN BATTLE WITH POLICE. LEADER OF OTHER COALITION PARTIWS (SA CARNEIRO OF PPD, MARIO SOARES OF SOCIALIST PARTY, AND BLANQUI TEIXEIRA OF PCP) ALSO DELIVERED SHORT STATEMENTS FOLLOWING CDS PRESENTATION AGAINST EXTREMISTS AND NON-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS OF VIOLENT MINORITIES.

4. CDS, WHILE GRATEFUL FOR PERSONAL SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY FURNISHED THEM BY PRIME MINISTER, IS DISAPPOINTED THAT
A) ONLY LOW RANKING UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE MADE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, INSTEAD OF SOMEONE OF MINISTERIAL RANK, OR SOMEONE FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT; B) PM DUCKED QUESTION OF WHO WOULD PAY FOR DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$120,000 (IN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ISSUED BY CABINET DECLARATION WAS MADE THAT "THOSE INVOLVED" WOULD PAY FOR DAMAGES); C) MRPP WAS NOT BANNED;
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D) QUESTION OF WHY COPCON FORCES DID NOT ARRIVE TO PROTECT CDS HEADQUARTERS NOT ANSWERED. (NOV 6 EDITORIAL IN DIARIO DE NOTICIAS ASKS SAME QUESTION).

5. DIOGO FREITAS DO AMARAL, CDS LEADER, INVITED BACK TO SEE PM A SECOND TIME ON NOVEMBER 5. DURING THAT MEETING PM SAID THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES WHICH HE BELIEVED WOULD PLEASE THE CDS. WHILE HE VOLUNTEERED NO SPECIFICS OF

WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, CDS SECRETARY GENERAL AMARO DA COSTA BELIEVES THAT PM MAY TRY TO OBTAIN FOR THEM MORE LIBERAL ACCESS TO THE PRESS, AND THAT HE MAY REOPEN PREVIOUSLY CLOSED QUESTION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN COALITION GOVERNMENT (WHICH NOW RESERVED ONLY TO PPD, PCP, AND PS). THE CDS THINKS THAT PM MAY USE THIS INCIDENT TO GET PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) INTO THE COALITION, WHICH IS WHAT COMMUNIST PARTY HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING UP TO NOW, AND WHICH IT WOULD "TRADE" FOR BY ALLOWING CDS A SLOT. CDS LEADER INFORMED PRIME MINISTER AS FAR BACK AS LATE OCTOBER THAT CDS WOULD BE PREPARED HAVE MDP ENTER GOVERNMENT IF THAT WAS PRICE FOR CDS ENTRY AS WELL.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE THE DAMAGE TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS, THE CDS HAS NOT BEEN PUT OUT OF BUSINESS, AND IN FACT MAY HAVE RECEIVED A MUCH NEEDED BOOST FROM THE INCIDENT ITSELF AND THE RESULTANT SUPPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE THREE COALITION PARTIES. THEY POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THEIR INCORPORATION AS A PARTY LAST JULY THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO SPEAK ON TELEVISION. ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF KIND WORDS AND RECOGNITION FROM THE OTHER "LEGITIMATE" COALITION PARTIES, AS WELL AS PRESS, WHICH HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON WHOLE SYMPATHETIC TO CDS. LIKEWISE THEIR LONG VISIT WITH THE PM HAS ADDED TO THEIR PRESTIGE AND WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR LEFTIST ENEMIES TO SNIPE AT THEM IN THE FUTURE.

7. THE STRONGEST THING THAT THE CDS HAS GOING FOR THEM IS THE FACT THAT THEY ARE THE ONLY CONSERVATIVE FORCE RUNNING IN THE ELECTIONS. WERE THEY TO FOLD UP (WHICH, AS REPORTED IN REF B, THEY HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED OING) THE ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE MEANINGFUL IN THE EYES OF INTERNAL AND FOREIGN OBSERVERS. THE CDS ALLUDED TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN A PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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RELEASE NOV 6 IN WHICH THEY SAID THAT A RECURRENCE OF THE EARLIER ATTACKS AGAINST THEM WOULD FORCE THEM TO RECONSIDER WHETHER THEY COULD EFFECTIELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS AND POLITICS.

8. IN SUMMARY, DESPITE THE HIGH COST THEY HAVE PAID, THE CDS HAS NEW OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE IT AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACKS AGAINST THEM. A KEY QUESTION STILL UNANSWERED IS WHY COPCON DID NOT PROTECT THE CDS. THE SUSPICION GROWS THAT ITS FAILURE WAS DELIBERATE.
SCOTT

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